

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the following paragraphs.

[0001] The invention relates generally to plugs for power ports. More particularly, the invention relates to safety plugs with a child-~~resistant~~proof mechanism.

[0006] In one aspect, the invention relates to safety plugs for power ports such as those found in an automobile or a boat. A safety plug in accordance with one embodiment of the invention includes a body having a first end adapted to be inserted into a power port; a locking device connected to the body for reversibly engaging an inside of the power port; and a control device operatively coupled to the locking device for disengaging the locking device from the inside of the power port, wherein the control device comprises a child-~~resistant~~proof mechanism.

[0015] Embodiments of the invention relate to safety plugs for power ports, such as those found in automobiles and boats. A safety plug in accordance with embodiments of the invention includes a locking device. The locking device can be disengaged by a control device with a child-~~resistant~~proof mechanism. Therefore, a safety plug in accordance with embodiments of the invention can prevent children from pulling the safety plug out of a power port.

[0018] In accordance with embodiments of the invention, the control device 20 has a child-~~resistant~~proof mechanism that may be activated in a counter-intuitive manner such that a child is less likely to pull the safety plug 100 out of the power port. Examples of child-~~resistant~~proof mechanisms may include the following. The control device 20 may need to be “pushed” in, while the safety plug 100 is being “pulled” out of the power port. The control device 20 may need to be turned to a specific angular position, like

a child-~~resistant~~~~proof~~ medicine bottle, before the safety plug 100 can be removed from the power port. The control device 20 may need to be turned to one direction and then the other, like a combination lock, before the locking mechanism 13 is disengaged from inside the power port. One of ordinary skill in the art would appreciate that other variations of the child-~~resistant~~~~proof~~ mechanism may be used with embodiments of the invention, and, therefore, the invention is not limited to these specific examples.

[0027] Advantages of the invention may include the following. A safety plug in accordance with the invention can be easily deployed to block a power port to prevent potential injuries to children. A safety plug of the invention has a locking device with a child-~~resistant~~~~proof~~ control mechanism that unlocks the locking device in a counter-intuitive manner. Therefore, children are not expected to be able to remove the safety plugs from the power ports. In addition, a safety plug of the invention may further provide other functions such as a sign or a display. The safety plug may also provide a conduit to the power terminals in the power port such that other electrical or electronic devices may be conveniently connected.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the abstract with the following.

Safety plugs for power ports are disclosed. A safety plug in accordance with embodiments of the invention includes a body having a first end adapted to be inserted into a power port; a locking device connected to the body for reversibly engaging an inside of the power port; and a control device operatively coupled to the locking device for disengaging the locking device from the inside of the power port, wherein the control device comprises a child-~~resistant~~~~proof~~ mechanism.